Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2001 TO FEBRUARY 9, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	January			The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. In January the index fell for every province except Prince Edward Island (2.8%) and Newfoundland (0%). The largest declines were in British Columbia (-5.2%), Nova Scotia (-1.8%), and Alberta (-1.7%). Year over year, the index increased for both Canada (4.7%) and Alberta (14.9%).
Alberta	177	-1.7%	14.9%	
Canada	177	-2.2%	4.7%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	December			In 2000, both the residential and non-residential sectors recorded their strongest performances since the 1989 record. The largest non-residential increases were recorded in Alberta (22.3%) and Ontario (9.0%). The largest residential increases were recorded in Ontario (5.4%), Quebec (5.1%), and Alberta (4.4%). On monthly basis, largest increases were recorded in British Columbia (29.9%), and Saskatchewan (24.0%), with decreases in New Brunswick (-27.9%), and Newfoundland (-27.2).
Alberta	406.1	-9.4%	-0.5%	
Canada	3,204.2	2.3%	-8.9%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	January			Strong housing starts in January bode well for the Canadian economy. Aside from Newfoundland (-27.3%) and Prince Edward Island (-16.7%) all provinces experienced increases in housing starts from the previous month. The largest increases were recorded in New Brunswick (150.0%), Saskatchewan (112.5%), and British Columbia (73.4%).
Alberta	24.2	7.1%	26.2%	
Canada	155.0	23.3%	35.0%	
Alberta Rig Drilling	January			Drilling increased 6.8% from December 2000, and 26.8% from January 2000.
Alberta	395	6.8%	26.8%	